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JPRS L/9618

20 March 1981

... FBIS 40TH YEAR 1941-81 ...

East Europe Report

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS

(FOUO 3/81)

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26 February 1981

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On behalf of all of us in FBIS I wish to express appreciation to our readers who have guided our efforts throughout the years.

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EAST EUROPE REPORT
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY PROBLEMS HINDER CSSR METALLURGY PROGRESS

Prague HUTNICKE LISTY in Czech No 1, Jan 81 pp 1-2

[Article by Eng L. Gerle, Minister of Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering: "The Commencement of the Seventh Five-Year Plan in the Ministry of Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering"]

[Text] The economic year 1980 concluded the Sixty Five-Year Plan, a period of all-round successful development of the national economy, but also a period which tested our ability and preparedness to deal with a situation in which procuring raw materials and energy has become increasingly complex and costly. We now begin 1981, the first year of the Seventh Five-Year Plan, during which we also begin to make use of the regulations and procedures of the Set of Measures for Improving Management of the National Economy, which are aimed especially at higher overall efficiency of the national economy. We are also entering the year of the 16th CPCZ Congress, at which the CPCZ's strategic political and economic line for the Seventh Five-Year Plan will be mapped out and approved. To crown the importance of this year, all communists and workers in our country take note of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the CPCZ.

The beginning of this new year of the Seventh Five-Year Plan requires that each of us analyze his past work and learn from shortcomings and successes so that the results of our efforts will be better in the future and our work will produce better effects for the development of our socialist society.

The 16th CPCZ Congress is about a quarter year away, and this period will be completely filled by the new creative initiatives and work activities of all the production collectives.

The metallurgical industry is a basic sector which functions as the material base for the machine building, electrical engineering, construction and other sectors and plays an important role in foreign trade. The level of the machine building industry's technical and economic standards is greatly affected by the results in its metallurgical base, for it accounts for more than 70 percent of domestic consumption of ferrous metals and alloys, 95 percent of high-grade steel and 62 percent of non-ferrous metals. Nor has the importance of metallurgy been decreased by the development of new materials. But technical development imposes ever-increasing demands not only as regards quantity, but particularly as regards the quality of metallur-

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gical production. The research on and mastery of new alloys for electronics and other branches of industry, such as nuclear construction and the power industry, and the building of machinery and equipment are taking on special importance.

The main assignments of the 15th party congress and the directives of the Sixth Five-Year Plan have been fulfilled in the production of grain and in exports, where the plan was actually exceeded. Up to the end of 1978 the metallurgical industry was considerably exceeding its assignments in the Sixth Five-Year Plan for the vast majority of specifically named tasks. Starting in 1979 a number of negative factors emerged, particularly raw materials and energy problems. However, there was also a worsening of the technical status of the production base (coke furnaces and blast furnaces) and a postponement of the startup of new capacities from capital construction. Raw materials and energy problems and acted from outside the metallurgical industry, but internal shortcomings of ferrous metallurgy also led to a falling short of the summary targets for the Sixth Five-Year Plan during the concluding years. In spite of a high output of steel, metallurgy is not meeting requirements for alloy steels, heat treated heavy plate, steel for electrical engineering, stainless steel piping, thin-wall profile sheet, and precision tubing. The goal of increasing production of high quality rolled steel by 25 to 30 percent was not fulfilled (the level was about 20 percent), and the targets for secondary metallurgical production are being met somewhat late. The planned numbers of workers and the required increase in labor productivity were met with difficulty. The problem of worker turnover is worsening, and the social development program is not being carried out effectively enough.

Considerable resources were put into the investment development of the metallurgical industry. The critical coke and medium-precision rolling capacities of the NHKG [Klement Gottwald New Metallurgical Works], the continuous casting facilities at the VSZ [East Slovak Iron Works] and partly at the VTZ [Pipe Rolling and Iron Works] and the new Poldi SONP [United Steel Works national enterprise] and the Kovohute Rokycany rolling mills will be completed this year, with some shortfalls. The state rationalization programs for conservation of energy and metal will be successfully fulfilled. Conservation in metallurgical processes has also made it possible to exceed production assignments.

Metallurgy is one of the sectors which have developed rapidly and successfully in the last 30 years. The results achieved attest to the fact that great economic potential has been constructed in the Czechoslovak metallurgical industry. This is not only the basis, but also, if effectively utilized, a reserve for solving the problems which the Czechoslovak economy must solve under the new conditions. The nature of the current situation is that the conditions for development have changed fundamentally. The main problem of the next few years will be that of procuring, dressing and enriching ores. The limiting consideration of consumption of energy, particularly coke, bears on this. The high output level that has been achieved and the difficulty of further increasing imports has made it necessary to reappraise our ideas of the further development of the Czechoslovak metallurgy in the 1980's.

At the 18th session of the CPCZ Central Committee, CSSR President Comrade Dr L Strougal forecast an increase of 5 percent in raw steel output and of 8 percent in rolled materials for the Seventh Five-Year Plan. Particular stress is placed better management of metal, adequate use of available metal in the country and machinery

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life spans. Last year the government approved a decree including specific material, technical, economic and organizational measures for more effective utilization of this source. At the end of last year [1980] the government approved a state goal-directed program for metal management which, operating in the cycle of metallurgical production, metals utilization and procurement of coke resources, is expected to produce qualitative changes in metal production and particularly consumption during the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

The previous trend of continuous growth of metals output volume, and accordingly in consumption, are unfavorable for Czechoslovakia. The future development of the metallurgical industry must focus on the following:

A. An industrial technical base for:

- renovating production capabilities and concurrently modernizing basic facilities, particularly primary production ones, including general overhaul;
- gradual integration of basic primary metallurgical production into high-efficiency, truly high-output units;
- a gradual changeover of steel production to modified oxygen converters and electric furnaces with continuous steel casting and optimal utilization of existing blooming mills;
- targets for finalizing metal production in terms of metal utilization by the consumers;
- effective utilization of all sources of metals in ores and scrap and in metallurgical production technology.

B. Technical development of production processes aimed at:

- maximum energy conservation;
- maximum utilization of metals in the metallurgical cycle;
- assurance of the quality of metal products as regards use in the consuming sectors (stabilization of specifications, dimensional precision and the like);
- development of new products and quality levels in accordance with the requirements of the Czechoslovak machine building and electrical engineering sectors and other sectors of the national economy.

C. Effects on the living and working environment:

- decreasing negative effects on humans by automating processes;
- measures leading to decreased work processes, noise and separation of work activities from environments harmful to health;
- gradual elimination of metallurgy's harmful effects above the ecologically bearable level.

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The basic assignment for the further development of metallurgy, that of meeting requirements for high-quality metallurgical products with only the essential international exchange and thus of lessening the contemplated increase in metals production must be unconditionally adhered to, from considerations of raw materials and energy. It is also necessary gradually to assure the other conditions needed for metallurgy to operate effectively in the national economy. The conditions and regulations in the Set of Measures for Improving the Management System of the National Economy also lead to this end.

Our extensive production base and the experience and knowledge of the worker collectives, the working groups of technicians and designers, and the scientific research organizations create the conditions for successful fulfillment of metallurgy's assignments even in the more demanding conditions of the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

As we begin 1981 I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the metallurgical workers and secondary production workers who in 1980 made major efforts in all areas in order to assure fulfillment of the assignments stemming from the directives of the 15th CPCZ Congress. I am convinced that their exemplary and selfless work will also accomplish the planned tasks for 1981 and the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

In anticipation of the first year of the Seventh Five-Year Plan, I wish all workers in the VHJ VITKOVICE Ferrous Metallurgy Plant and the Kovohute Plant secondary production facility much personal and work success.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CSSR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSED

Prague TECHNICKY TYDENIK in Czech 12 Jan 81 No 2 p 11

[Interview with Dusan Dvorak, chief of the Research Institute of Technology and Economics of the Chemical Industry, Prague: "Quality on the Agenda"]

[Text] For almost a quarter century the Technical and Economic Research Institute of the Chemical Industry in Prague has been helping to develop our chemical production. We addressed some questions to its chief, Engineer Dusan Dvorak, candidate of sciences.

[Question] Your institute has developed a forecast of the development of the Czechoslovak chemical industry through 1990. On what did you base it?

[Answer] Primarily on the requirements which the national economy will have for products of the chemical industry. And since 80 percent of the output of our chemical industry goes to the main production sectors, we based the forecast primarily on their requirements.

An important purchaser of chemical industry products is the machine building industry. Some machine parts are made from synthetic materials; this is less labor-consuming than making them from metal, and it makes the entire machine lighter. For example, 10 percent of the weight of Skoda passenger cars is accounted for by synthetic materials (not counting the tires, of course). Almost all of the insulation in electrical equipment is made from synthetics.

We supply the construction industry with flooring and plumbing material (e.g. pipes for water and sewage). Synthetic materials are steadily increasing in importance for sound and heat insulation as well. For example, the production of a new type of sandwich panels, whose polystyrene filler greatly decreases the heat and sound conductivity of walls, is now beginning.

The chemical plants furnish agriculture with chemical fertilizer and pesticides. We provide fuel oil for the power industry. The fabrics produced by our textile plants contain more than 40 percent synthetic fiber, a product of the chemical industry. We provide the tanning industry with synthetic materials with the properties of leather.

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Roughly 15 percent of our chemical industry's output is exported, while 5 percent (primarily paints, varnishes and photographic materials) is earmarked for individual consumers. All of these purchasers wish that our chemical industry would supply more intermediates and end products. But a forecast of the development of the chemical industry must be based on specific capabilities.

[Question] And what limits the development of our chemical industry?

[Answer] Less than 20 percent of production expenditures in the chemical industry goes for wages and equipment depreciation. More than 30 percent of production expenditures goes for raw materials and energy. And the prices of raw materials and energy are increasing rapidly throughout the world. Accordingly it will be impossible to expand rapidly the quantitative output of our chemical industry, i.e. the numbers of tons we produce. It is primarily the quality of our products that will have to be increased.

The Seventh Five-Year Plan is the five-year plan of thrift and conservation. Accordingly the chemical industry will not be able to make large investments with a long payback period. Finally, our sources of further manpower are largely exhausted. Therefore it will be expedient to eliminate certain chemical plants with obsolete or worn-out machinery. This would free up workers for new, advanced workplaces.

[Question] How does your forecast resolve the conflict between increased demand for products of the chemical industry and limited sources of raw materials?

[Answer] Chemical production is orienting itself toward more effective utilization of raw materials. It is especially necessary to make better use of petroleum. As a result we will be expanding petrochemistry, and especially finalizing and processing technology. We will also increase the output of synthetic fibers, which are an important way of effectively utilizing petroleum and cellulose. Also increasing will be the output of tires, which make effective use of synthetic rubber.

The chemical industry must also make full use of domestic raw materials. Accordingly, for example, the output of cellulose for paper mills is increasing. The production of paper for the domestic market and for export is, of course, a better use of raw wood than the export of lumber, which will be decreased.

The chemical plants also help the other sectors make better use of raw materials. For example, by providing the textile plants with high-quality preparations for shrinkproofing, flameproofing and waterproofing textiles, it will enable them to make more effective use of cotton, wool and the like. The production of substances to speed up the production of synthetic fibers and the output of intermediates for medicines will also increase. In short, the output of chemical specialties which have high utility value with low weight will increase.

The production of dyes will also increase. The importance of this type of production is attested to by the fact that the largest chemical trusts were named I. G. Farben, France Color and the like. Both dyes and paints and varnishes are

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extremely important for the esthetic appearance of clothing, workshops and cities and greatly decrease corrosion losses on metal structures.

[Question] Surely the forecast also solves the problem of how to decrease energy consumption per unit of output in the chemical industry, and how to do so without excessive investment?

[Answer] Primarily it will be necessary to make full use of existing equipment. We will try by means of various alterations and improvements in the manufacturing processes to exceed its originally designed capacity. We are devoting research, special task assignments and comprehensive socialist rationalization to this purpose.

The chemical industry uses about 29 percent of all electricity consumed. Therefore every saving will show up clearly in the nationwide balance. We are attempting to cut energy losses in distribution equipment and manufacturing processes. In addition, the organization of the chemical industry is cooperating closely with the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the individual kraj and okres power production centers.

We are being assisted in both undertakings by cooperation and division of labor with the chemical industries of the Soviet Union, East Germany and the other socialist countries. For example, it has been agreed that we will produce products that are less energy-intensive and supply them to the USSR, from which we will import energy-intensive chemical products. We have already built some chemical facilities for petroleum refining jointly with East Germany, for example facilities for the production of ethylene and propylene. We will continue this work.

[Question] How and with what will the chemical industry speed up the research-development-production-utilization cycle?

[Answer] Let me start with research. In chemistry's distant past, most chemical products were prepared in small lots--in pots on the stove, to exaggerate somewhat. Accordingly large investments were not needed to change a manufacturing process. But now large-scale chemical production uses high-output, narrowly specialized production facilities. If a new process is introduced, most of this expensive equipment is no longer suitable and new equipment must be laboriously built. Accordingly, in order to save on investments and speed up innovation, our research should aim more at improving the processes already in use here.

Machine building operations belonging to the chemical industry will have to produce experimental production facilities and other equipment for innovation more rapidly and in larger quantities, whether it has been designed by a research organization or by an operating collective. This involves a complication: most machine building plants in Czechoslovakia provide spare parts only for machinery which they are still producing. But the chemical industry also uses machinery which is no longer in production. Spare parts for this equipment must be laboriously fabricated by small machine shops belonging to the chemical industry. But this places such a load on their capacities that they are unable to produce the necessary pilot production equipment. Accordingly, if the machine building enterprises produced all the spare parts we need, they would also be giving great assistance to innovation.

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[Question] To apply new scientific and technical discoveries it is also necessary to know about them. What is your institute doing about this?

[Answer] Our institute is providing interested persons with the necessary scientific, technical, process and economic information in the chemical field. We obtain data from scientific organizations, production enterprises, specialized publications, journals, yearbooks, the patent literature and the like, both here and abroad. We use these sources to make up so-called "annotations" which are stored in computers. Using computers enables us to answer inquiries and provide surveys immediately in the form of research reports precisely tailored to the customer's needs.

[Question] Part of your institute's research activity involves applying mathematical methods and computers to management of the chemical industry. How is this activity progressing?

[Answer] In 1959 our organization was the second in the CSSR to begin work on the use of computers in direct control and optimization of production processes, quality control, and management at all levels. We help our enterprises plan for and introduce computer equipment, and we have also trained many workers to use it.

We have also developed an approach which helps computers to monitor plan fulfillment in the chemical industry. According to this approach, industrial production enterprises report every day on their fulfillment of the plan tasks being monitored. The computer evaluates the situation every day and provides the center with data on the size of and reasons for deviations from plan. This enables the center to take expeditious steps and, when necessary, to assure that the production shortfall is made up. But most importantly, this system helps prevent such shortfalls.

These are, of course, only a few examples of our varied activity.

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CSSR PLANT CONCENTRATION, SPECIALIZATION LAGGING

Bratislava EKONOMIKA POLNOHOSPODARSTVA in Czech Dec 80 pp 532-534.

[Article by Engr Josef Rohlicek, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food: "The Development of the Concentration and Specialization of Plant Production in the Sixth Five-Year Plan."]

[Text] From 1976 to 1979 concentration increased in plant production in the interest of specialization, and the corresponding conditions were created in the organization of the land stock. In this article I will analyze several aspects of this performance which must be taken into account in the planning of the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

In the mechanization sector the volume and mix of delivered equipment did not correspond to the needs of the development of concentration and specialization. Requirements for basic mechanization were not covered, especially in cases of the machinery necessary to complete technological systems. A lack of mechanization for the mountain and foothill regions persisted, machinery was lacking for the harvesting of hard-to-reach areas of fodder crops as well as for the hay harvest, and there were not enough stationary choppers, overhead cranes for large greenhouses, specialized machinery for vegetable harvesting, rock removal, and the like. Moreover, service for the existing machines is inadequate. Budget allocations for certain machines were not fully covered, and for this reason some of them did not even pay for themselves.

As a result, systems must often be composed of machines with varying capacities, in which case the productivity of the system is limited by that of the least productive machine, and completing the system takes place slowly.

The budget allocations for certain machines are not fully covered and do not provide for even simple reproduction, a problem manifested in the renovation of the machinery fleet (for instance) units for soil preparation and sowing). A number of machines are lacking for the filling out of technological systems essential for implementing crop concentration in agricultural enterprises (particularly for flax, fodder crops, vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants and the like).

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The use of mechanized systems for removing cow manure is restricted by a lack of sophisticated loading technology, and the output of other systems is often limited during peak work periods by insufficient transportation equipment.

Resolving Mechanization in the Seventh Five-Year Plan by Completing Technology

In spite of the above difficulties, the level of mechanization of plant production has increased in recent years. Resolving the mechanization of straw removal, especially by introducing stacking adapters, has contributed to the comprehensive harvesting of grains. The insufficient capacity of post-harvest systems, drying and storing facilities remains an open problem.

In the enterprise sphere in the SSR, land sown with grain corn has been significantly concentrated in the relevant production areas, at the same time that the further implementation of the corn program is hampered by insufficient harvesting mechanization and drying technology.

While the extent of mechanization in potato farming has increased in the CSR (mechanical harvesting increased to 72.4 percent of the total in 1979, with an average output of 24.7 hectares per harvester), there has been no improvement in this direction in the SSR due to the fact that it is still necessary there to raise potatoes in areas unfavorable for mechanical harvesting. The mechanization of potato harvesting still remains a problem, the solution to which depends on deliveries of additional sophisticated harvesters and, especially in the SSR, the relocation of production to areas with conditions favorable for the use of existing technology.

Issues related to thinning remain to be resolved in both republics in relation to the comprehensive mechanization of sugar beet raising. The effectiveness of the technique of genetical sowing of monocot seeds and seeds with improved monocot characteristics, which was expanded in 1979 with the objective of significantly lowering manual labor during thinning, has been reduced by insufficient quality (in the seed germination rate) and by a lack of precise sowing machines, which exerts a negative influence on the number of individual plants. It is evident that in enterprises which are equipped with complete technological systems, and which have achieved a relevant level of crop concentration, the dynamic and pace of the development of production and its efficiency gradually stabilizes. Certain persistent shortcomings--above all in material technical outfitting--increase the risk involved in technical crops and do not support the evolution of the concentration and specialization process.

Models have been developed to test an operationally higher concentration of bulk crops in plant production, and are being verified at selected agricultural enterprises (on five united agricultural cooperatives and seven state farms). In the SSR models are being verified, at specialized enterprises, solely for the raising of corn, vegetables, grazing and fodder crops.

In both republics particular attention is being devoted to developing the concentration and specialization of potato, fruit, and vegetable production. For these crops, more rapid concentration has so far been prevented by high labor requirements--especially for harvesting, an overall lack of harvesting machinery,

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technical systems, and insufficient capacity of post harvest systems and storage space.

Regarding potatoes, attention is being focused on allocation of space to specific end uses. In addition to enterprises which are narrowly specialized toward a single end use, combined specialization is applied in practice, with consumer and seed potatoes representing the main end uses, supplemented with the production of industrial potatoes.

For the Seventh Five-Year Plan it is essential to strengthen the resources devoted to the construction of post-harvest systems and potato storage facilities. Insofar as this equipment will not be available with the necessary capacity, it is impossible to mount a great labor effort for the potato harvest, which in turn limits the possibilities for agricultural enterprises to increase their specialization and concentration.

Significant problems remain in both republics in the implementation of the concentration and specialization of vegetable production. The overall space allotted to vegetables must be distributed over a relatively large number of united agricultural cooperatives and state farms, each cultivating an average of 35 to 50 hectares. Enterprises which focus on vegetables raise an average of 3 to 6 varieties, which seems to be optimal, while only a few (due to conditions) specialize exclusively in one variety.

New production technology is currently being tested at selected specialized agricultural enterprises and at state agricultural enterprises. Certain specialized state agricultural enterprises are providing a part of the critical inputs for their member enterprises (delivery of packaged seedlings, plant protection, professional services, etc) and also coordinate the marketing and monetizing of the vegetables, including the harvest, preparation for market, and the processing of substandard products. In this way they assist in reducing the risk and losses of the member enterprises. This procedure should be expanded to include other state agricultural enterprises. The situation is quite similar in the testing and introduction of specialization in fruit production, where model enterprises are tested out in a like manner.

The operational economic results obtained from the model enterprises which are testing mass production techniques for the production of fruits and vegetables must be evaluated more rapidly and the Semptra economic production unit must see to the assurance of their further expansion, in its role as the organization responsible for the development of scientific and technical progress.

Wider specialization of pod crop production continues to be hampered by a lack of seed, a corresponding technology, and effective protective substances.

The area of concentrated technical crops has gradually, but significantly, increased, though at the expense of product quality, and less significantly for oil crops. Nor in the course of the past 2 years have enterprises specialized to a greater extent on low weight crops (poppy seed, caraway seed, mustard seed, garlic, fennel, marjoram, coriander, and selected medicinal plants), the growth of which on a large scale is connected with risk, and the wider expansion of

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which is blocked by inadequate harvesting technology, and therefore high labor intensiveness.

Enterprise Specialization to be Completed During Seventh Five-Year Plan

During the past 2 years the pace of enterprise specialization in plant production has progressed relatively rapidly, especially in the CSR. While 48.8 percent of all agricultural enterprises and factories here raised one to three marketable crops, in 1977, by 1979 the figure had increased to 77.4 percent. At the same time 47.8 percent of the agricultural enterprises and factories specialize in 1 to 2 marketable crops, 18.4 percent specialize in a single crop, and 73 agricultural organizations in extreme mountain conditions engage in plant production focused solely on grains and fodder crops related to the development of cattle husbandry. The situation in the SSR is a little worse in this regard: there only 49.3 percent of the agricultural enterprises have succeeded in specializing in 1 to 3 crops. Consequently then, 22.6 percent of the enterprises and factories in the CSR and 50.7 percent of those in the SSR, raise more than four marketable crops in addition to grains and fodder.

This is not, however, a matter of a negative phenomenon, because it has objective causes. It is evident that under favorable production conditions, especially in lowland areas, it will be necessary to assure a broader mix of marketable crops which will be integrated into the structure of production. Mainly, we are dealing here with large enterprises operating under varying production conditions, where it is possible to create specialized production units within the enterprise.

It is clear that in accordance with directives regarding the relocation of plant production to areas of optimal natural and climatic conditions (the proposed project for the relocation of agricultural production in the CSSR to national republics, regions and districts--Research Institute for Agricultural and Food Economics (1979), from a 1978 conception originating in the Czech Socialist Republic) it will be necessary during the Seventh Five-Year Plan to complete enterprise specialization not only in the light of more refined regional and district studies, but also in terms of yearly planning and implementation in the enterprise sphere.

Care for the Soil

The first steps toward land improvements are being realized gradually in the land stock sector. In both republics the main cause of the shortcomings which appear during the implementation of soil improvement, modification, and recultivation is the reality that since the attachment of soil improvement cooperatives to district branches of SZP [state agricultural enterprises] their construction activities have not as yet created sufficient personnel or material conditions for the quality maintenance and optimal utilization of the constructed facilities. The level of maintenance has significantly worsened in comparison with the times when the improvement cooperatives handled it themselves. For the development of concentration and specialization in the area of plant nutrition and preservation, it is important to speed up the construction of agrochemical enterprises, and to give priority to outfitting them with the necessary warehouses, transportation equipment, and technology.

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As of the end of 1979 a total of 115 agrochemical enterprises had been established in the CSSR, 80 in the CSR and 35 in the SSR. Only in the Cadca district are agrochemical services still being provided by a state tractor station, and in the kolin district the provider of chemical applications is the Velim united agricultural cooperative. A total of 96 agrochemical enterprises service whole districts, and 21 agrochemical enterprises operate within the framework of cooperative divisions. In addition, the agrochemical enterprises in 5 districts have been organized as specialized operations of agricultural enterprises of the combine type, and in 11 districts the agrochemical centers are managed by the sectoral enterprises of the state farms.

One of the basic activities of the agrochemical economic enterprises is the storage and application of industrial fertilizers. For this activity the agrochemical economic enterprises have had constructed a new, single purpose, warehousing facility for 341,000 tons of industrial fertilizers which will make possible the storage--given a yearly turnover of 2.5 times--of about 20 percent of the yearly consumption of industrial fertilizer in the CSSR. A majority of the purchased industrial fertilizer is now stored for the most part in unfavorable facilities, at agricultural enterprises. For practical purposes, a warehousing capacity is absent at agrochemical economic enterprises for calcareous materials. Emergency warehouses for plant protection preparations are being built in connection with the construction of new centers.

For application, the agrochemical economic enterprises and agrochemical centers of the state agricultural enterprises of the CSSR have only 1,768 trucks, 944 DO 32 automatic spreaders, 157 truck tanks for calcareous materials, 242 mobile loaders, 40 truck mounted cranes, 115 Kertitox sprayers, and additional necessary machinery. In 1978 this equipment applied approximately 25 percent of the volume of delivered industrial fertilizers. The agrochemical economic enterprises still have only a small role in carrying out plant preservation (between 3 and 4 percent of the total work volume).

The amount of attention paid to organic fertilizers is still low, primarily due to a lack of relevant handling, loading, and application technology.

Regional laboratories have been set up at selected agrochemical economic enterprises for territories encompassing two to three districts covering an area of about 140,000 hectares of agricultural land). Approximately 53 of these laboratories have been established in the CSSR (41 in the CSR, 12 in the SSR), and their objective is to provide the results of analyses necessary for the qualified administration of plant and animal husbandry.

Aerial agricultural work is provided by the Slovair enterprise for aerial work. In 1979 it treated about 4.8 million average hectares.

The Agricultural Deliveries and Purchasing sectoral enterprise owned facilities which were built for the warehousing of industrial fertilizers and calcareous materials, and is now gradually transferring them to the agrochemical economic enterprises, though in some cases the Zdenek Nejedly Plant is using them for other purposes.

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Special Biological and Technical Services

The level of preservation of inventories of plant origin is a separate problem which is one of the weakest aspects of plant protection. The reasons for this condition include the fragmented and seasonal character of the activities of several crews, low labor productivity, inadequate technical equipment, and differences in management methods, planning, and the direction of the whole activity.

The activity of economic production units, state tractor stations, and agricultural equipment repair stations is being focused, above all, on the development of comprehensive systems for attending to agricultural technology. The agricultural production activity of the state tractor stations is being gradually focused, by means of its partial limitation to agricultural enterprises. Their basic program remains combine harvesting with sophisticated harvesting blades to smooth out harvest peaks. The three-level system for maintaining agricultural technology is being intensified, with the objective of increasing concentration and specialization.

The assembly, maintenance, and repair of stationary feedlot technology, but above all the output of limited production machinery and equipment for vegetables, are not being assured at a corresponding tempo.

During the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the Oseva, Semptra, Slovosivo, and Semex economic production units did not succeed in increasing the concentration of seeds and seedlings in their own enterprises despite further development of specialization at their subordinate factories (for instance, in the CSR 45.8 percent of these factories have still failed to achieve even a minimal concentration, defined as 50 percent propagation from its total area). At the same time, the Semptra economic production unit is not using all possibilities in this direction, even though it has significantly increased the propagation space on its own soil base.

Deliveries of potato seedlings in the required variety mix are still not sufficiently taken care of, and shortages persist of sugar beet monocot seed, and clover and alfalfa seed, and there are insufficient strains of pod crops suitable for mass production, and a shortage of the required strain mix of vegetable seed and seedling material.

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